dated 19.7.2004, has directed the Welfare Commissioner to disburse the unspent amount to the persons whose claims have been settled, on pro-rata basis having due regard to the number of claims settled, unsettled and pending. According to information received from the Office of the Welfare Commissioner, the work of disbursement of compensation on pro-rata basis is likely to start from 1st October, 2004.

Revival of Hindustan Antibiotic Limited

1807. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revive the Hindustan Antibiotic Limited Pimpri, India's first pencillin manufacturing unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be revived?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a to (c) Recently, the Finance Minister, in the Budget Speech of 2004-05, has announced to provide financial support for the restructuring of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL), Pimpri. Thereafter, the HAL, has submitted a revised Draft Rehabilitation Scheme which envisages infusion of additional funds from the Government for the revival of the Company. It will not be possible to give a time frame for the revival of the company as it depends on the sanctioning of Rehabilitation Scheme by the BIFR which is a time consuming process.

High retail prices of drgus and medicines

1808. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that retail prices of drugs and medicines are being labeled at over 20 per cent of the cost of manufacture and packaging; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken or being taken to check and regulate the drug prices to protect the ailing and suffering humanity against such exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Prices of Scheduled drugs and medicines